

He Had a Dream

“I have a dream!” These are the famous words of me, a black American who made a significant difference in American society. I am Martin Luther King, Jr., and I was a pastor and one of the main leaders in the American civil rights movement. My life and my dream were one and the same, both devoted to peaceful change in the way of thinking of prejudiced Americans during the 1950’s and 1960’s.

I grew up in Atlanta, Georgia in a very religious family. My father was a Baptist minister, and as a result, was a big influence on me. I went to the local segregated schools and made excellent grades. I went on from there to enter Morehouse College at the young age of fifteen, and I earned a Bachelor’s degree in sociology (Millner 18). Because I felt led to become a minister like my father, I went to graduate school at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania, graduated with honors, entered Boston University, and finally earned my Doctoral degree in theology (Brown).

The teachings of Mohandas Gandhi greatly influenced me. I believed Gandhi’s ideals about nonviolent protest were the key to ending segregation and prejudice in American society. I arranged the Montgomery bus boycott after Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a white passenger. This movement thrust me into the national limelight, and I was quickly recognized as a leader in the civil rights struggle (Millner 42).

Throughout my life I worked toward changing the United States from a segregated country into one that believed in equality for all. I was the president of the Montgomery Improvement Association, I staged sit-ins and other nonviolent protests, and I spoke eloquently in many public forums about a better America (Norell). All of these things brought blacks and whites together and served to begin creating the United States that I had always dreamed about.

Unfortunately, my historic career was ended in 1968 when I was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee. I was shot by a sniper on April fourth, and my death was mourned by blacks and whites alike (Brown). I did not die in vain, however. My dream of desegregation came true shortly after my death, thus making a wonderful, united, and complete America.

Works Cited

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